

REMARKS

Claims 40-51, 53-58, 69-83, 87-90, 92-94 and 96 were pending in the present application. In the forgoing amendments, claims 76-83, 87-90, 92-94 and 96 have been canceled without prejudice and disclaimer to subject matter disclosed therein.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments above and the remarks set forth below.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 76-83, 87-90, 92-94 and 96 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo (U.S. Patent No. 6,526,028) in view of Hall (U.S. Patent No. 5,491,717). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

To expedite prosecution of the application, claims 76-83, 87-90, 92-94 and 96 have been canceled in the forgoing amendments, thus obviating the rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 40-51, 53-58, and 69-75 were allowed in the Office Action. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

A statement of reasons for allowance was set forth by the Examiner in the Office Action. While Applicant agrees that these claims are allowable for at least the reasons set forth in the Examiner's statement, Applicant submits that the invention as recited by the claims and as described in the present application is patentable over the art of record for reasons in addition to those listed in the Examiner's statement. Accordingly, Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims of different scope from those in the present application.

Specification

Applicant provides herewith amendments to the specification. The amendments to the specification are made by presenting marked up replacement paragraphs which identify changes made relative to the immediate prior version.

The changes made are primarily typographical or grammatical in nature, or involve minor clarifications of awkward wordings.

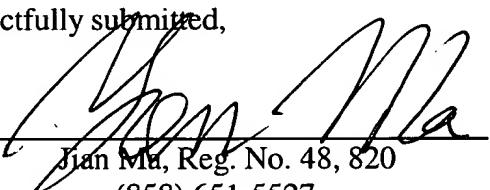
Applicant believes these changes add no new matter to the application and are fully supported by the original disclosure.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Jian Ma, Reg. No. 48,820
(858) 651-5527

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QUALCOMM Incorporated
5775 Morehouse Drive
San Diego, California 92121
Telephone: (858) 651-4125
Facsimile: (858) 658-2502